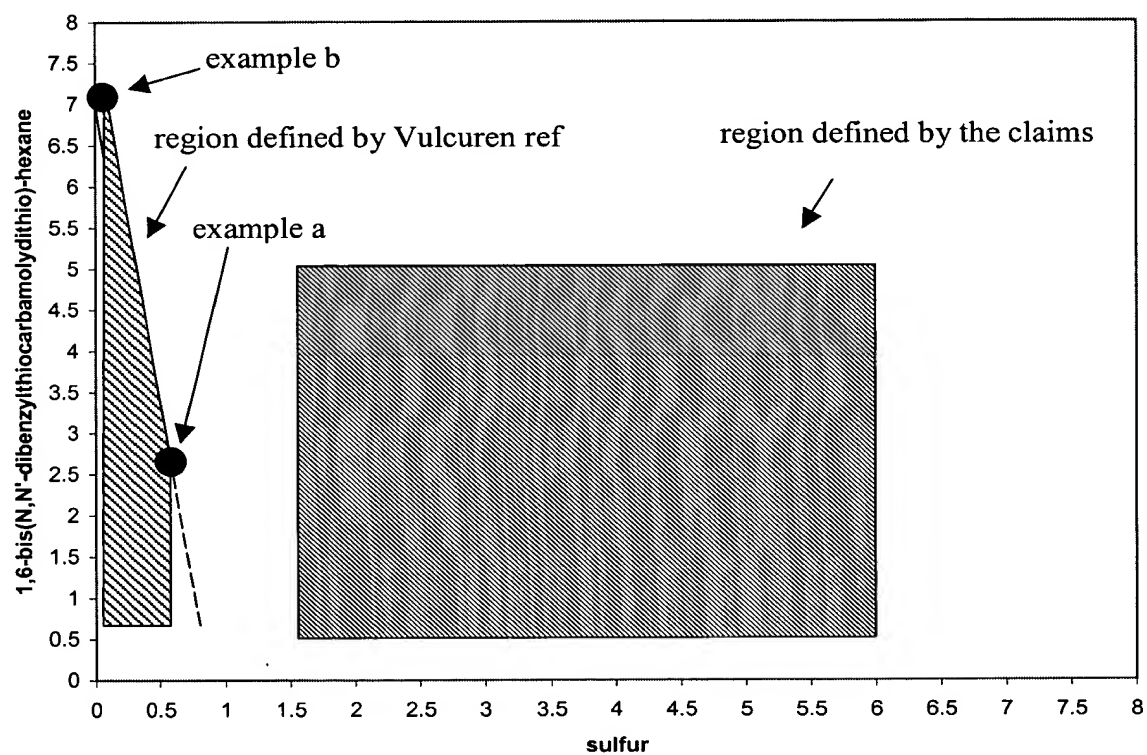


claims. Vulcuren clearly teaches away from the use of 1,6-bis(N,N'-dibenzylthiocarbamoyldithio)-hexane in the sulfur concentrations recited in the claims. Applicant again urges that prima facie obviousness has not been established, and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

As the Examiner correctly notes, Vulcuren exemplifies sulfur at 0.5 phr and 1,6-bis(N,N'-dibenzylthiocarbamoyldithio)-hexane at 2.5 phr (example a in Figure A), and sulfur at 0 phr and 1,6-bis(N,N'-dibenzylthiocarbamoyldithio)-hexane at 7 phr (example b in Figure A). Vulcuren further teaches a recommended range of 0.5 to 3 phr for 1,6-bis(N,N'-dibenzylthiocarbamoyldithio)-hexane. Given these teachings, the smaller shaded area illustrates what Vulcuren teaches one skilled in the art about the use of 1,6-bis(N,N'-dibenzylthiocarbamoyldithio)-hexane with sulfur. Vulcuren teaches nothing about the use of 1,6-bis(N,N'-dibenzylthiocarbamoyldithio)-hexane at sulfur concentrations greater than 0.5 phr. The Examiner notes that Vulcuren appears to illustrate an inverse relationship between the amount of sulfur and 1,6-bis(N,N'-dibenzylthiocarbamoyldithio)-hexane. Even if this is true, the teaching of Vulcuren is still distinguishable from the claims, and in fact teaches away from the claims. The dashed line included, as illustrating the extension of the line between the examples, does not approach the concentration region defined by the claims. Clearly, Vulcuren would not suggest the combined concentrations ranges of sulfur and 1,6-bis(N,N'-dibenzylthiocarbamoyldithio)-hexane recited in the claims, and in fact teaches away from these combined ranges. Based on this teaching away of Vulcuren (and the illustration of Figure A), one skilled in the art would have no expectation of success in combining Oare with Vulcuren. Clearly, no prima facie obviousness has been established.



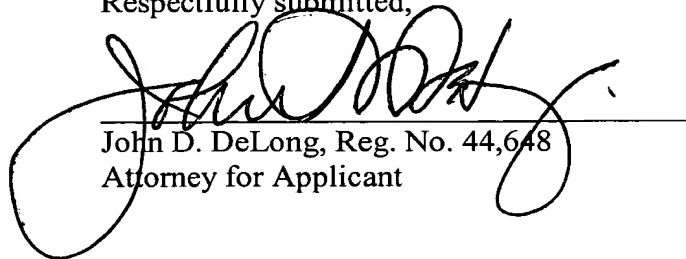
Figure A



Conclusion

It is believed that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable, and that it is now appropriate to allow the subject patent application. Such an allowance is accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. DeLong", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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